

## **South Dakota Health Care Solutions Coalition Conference Call**

Meeting Notes 2/29/2016

**Attendees:** Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Lynne Valenti, Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger, Senator Bernie Hunhoff, Senator Billie Sutton, Senator Troy Heinert, Representative Spencer Hawley, Terry Dosch, Mark Quasney on behalf of Jason Dilges, Steve Emery, Janet Jessup, Deb Fischer-Clemens, Dr. Mary Carpenter, Scott Duke, Debra Owen, Nick Kotzea, Sara DeCoteau, Rochelle Rodgers, Sunny Columbe, Sonia Weston, Mike Diedrich.

### **Welcome and Updates**

Kim Malsam-Rysdon updated the members on the State Health Official letter issued by CMS on Friday, Feb. 26. The letter was distributed to the Coalition and is available online. The payment policy affecting federal funding for services received by Medicaid-eligible individuals who are AI/AN through IHS facilities is effective immediately. However to implement the policy other action steps are necessary including implementing the provider agreement, modifying billing and payment processes, identifying Medicaid and IHS eligible patients, etc. In addition to the SHO letter, the Governor was also provided a draft provider agreement on Friday.

The Governor outlined in his press conference today that he was pleased that we've received the final policy, but with only ten legislative days left, the Governor announced today he will not be recommending expansion for this legislative session. The Governor remains optimistic that with the Coalition's help, we will be able to put together a plan that works for SD. He also shared that implementation teams are already being developed to implement the policy change and reiterated he will only move forward when there is a solid plan to implement the policy change and must have tribal and legislative support. Sonia Weston noted that she will continue to work toward a specific tribal resolution in support of expansion.

### **Next Steps**

As discussed at the last meeting, there are four implementation teams planned to implement the action steps necessary to operationalize the new CMS policy. Those teams include Telehealth ER and Specialty Care, Expanding IHS/Tribal Behavioral Health, IHS Satellite Clinics/Alternative Service Delivery, and Care Transitions Services for Hospital Based Services. These teams will meet primarily by conference calls.

In addition, a policy operations team will be developed to formulate questions, gather feedback, and develop processes to support implementation of the federal policy change in key areas including the provider agreement, IHS patient identification, sharing of medical records, and billing and payment processes. These processes will be utilized by the four implementation teams. This team will hold its first meeting March 10 from 10:00 a.m. to noon central. Members are being identified and will receive information and agenda for the call on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger will lead the targeted implementation work in telehealth. The deadline for responses to the IHS telehealth Sources Sought notice is March 1, which is the precursor for the RFP for providers. This team will focus initially on the information South Dakota providers submitted in response to the Sources Sought notice. This team's work will be short term as IHS has identified implementation of telehealth services resulting from the RFP for June 2016. This is an immediate potential for service delivery and improved care.

The next implementation team will focus on an alternate service model project to develop services for IHS-eligible patients who are not currently considered patients of IHS. This would require separate approval from HHS and would be another way to maximize 100% federal funding. The first meeting is Thursday, March 10 from 9am – 10am.

The behavioral health services implementation team will start meeting within the next couple of weeks, led by Lynne Valenti.

The inpatient/outpatient hospital care transition services implementation team will focus on the level of care provided when a patient goes home. This group will also start within the next two weeks.

Senator Hawley asked for clarification regarding the alternate service model implementation and if that could be done immediately. Kim clarified that South Dakota will need to develop the proposal and receive specific approval from CMS.

Senator Heinert asked what coalition members could do including tribes and tribal members dealing with significant healthcare access issues. These issues are acute, and services like telehealth can assist in addressing access issues sooner than some of the other strategies.

In follow up to today's press conference, Governor Daugaard will send a letter to the Tribes and the other groups that have expressed support for the Medicaid plan to provide an update, thank them for their support thus far and ask for their continued support. The next meeting of the Coalition is anticipated to be scheduled in mid-April.